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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An electrically powered heating mat, said mat having an essential planar structure having a top surface and a bottom surface and comprising:
a heating element, said heating element comprising at least two electrically resistive foil elements, each element constructed of a nichrome material;
~~at least three protective layers, at least one of said layers comprising at least one resin and at least two of said layers comprising chopped strands; and,~~
~~wherein two of said chopped strand layers are situated adjacent to said heating element~~
~~an upper chopped strand fiberglass layer positioned adjacent to and above the heating element;~~
~~a lower chopped strand fiberglass layer positioned adjacent to and below the heating element;~~
~~an aluminum earth screen positioned above the upper chopped strand fiberglass layer, said aluminum earth screen providing ground fault protection to the mat;~~
~~a surface tissue positioned above said aluminum earth screen;~~
~~a gel coat layer positioned above the surface tissue; and,~~
~~a flow coat resin layer positioned below the lower chopped strand fiberglass layer.~~
2. (previously presented) The heating mat of claim 1 in which each of said foil elements has width of not greater than 0.125" and thickness not greater than 0.005".
3. (previously presented) The heating mat of claim 1 in which said nichrome material

has an 80/20 ratio of nickel to chrome.

4. (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) The heating mat of claim [[4]] 1 wherein said gell coat layer and said surface tissue are of different colors thereby providing an indicator when said gell coat layer has been damaged or significantly worn.

6. (currently amended) The heating mat of claim [[4]] 1 further comprising a thermal cut out switch.

7. (previously presented) The heating mat of claim 1 further comprising an adjustable thermostatic control device, said device mounted on a connection cord remote from said heating mat.

8. (previously presented) The heating mat of claim 1 further comprising at least one insulation layer positioned immediately above the flow coat resin layer.

9. (Original) The heating mat of claim 8 wherein the thickness of said mat is approximately 1.25".

10. (currently amended) The heating mat of claim [[4]] 1 further comprising a rubber padding layer positioned below the flow coat resin layer.

11. (previously presented) The heating mat of claim 1 wherein the thickness of said mat is approximately 0.5".

12. (previously presented) The heating mat of claim 1 further comprising a means for establishing an acute angle between the heating mat and a surface on which it rests.

13-21. (Cancelled)

22. (currently amended) The heating mat of claim 1 wherein the upper chopped strand fiberglass layer and the bottom chopped strand fiberglass layer are sewn together to form An electrically powered heating mat comprising:

a heating element, said heating element comprising at least two electrically resistive foil elements, each element constructed of a nichrome material;

a layer comprising at least one resin; and,

a layer comprising chopped strands and containing at least two protective pockets, wherein a foil element is positioned in each of said pockets.